IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing piezoelectric wafers of surface acoustic wave (SAW) identification tags, comprising:

using a master reticle on a stepper to form, on each of said piezoelectric wafers, wafer-independent patterns that encode digits of a first significance for said SAW identification tags; and

using different ones of a library of coding reticles on a stepper to form, on each of said piezoelectric wafers, wafer-dependent patterns that encode digits of a second significance for said SAW identification tags.

2. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising forming a SAW transducer on each of said SAW identification tags.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing piezoelectric wafers of surface acoustic wave (SAW) identification tags, comprising:

using a master reticle to form, on each of said piezoelectric wafers, wafer-independent patterns that encode digits of the first significance for said SAW identification tags; and

using different ones of a library of coding reticles to form, on each of said piezoelectric wafers, wafer-dependent patterns that encode digits of the second significance for said SAW identification tags, ~~The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising forming~~ said wafer-independent and wafer-dependent patterns ~~by forming~~ composed of reflectors distributed among a group of slots arranged by both pulse position and by phase position, said reflectors encoding said digits of a the first significance and said digits of a the second significance.

4. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 3 wherein said reflectors are structures that

reflect a surface acoustic wave.

5. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 3 further comprising forming a framing reflector on said SAW identification tags, said framing reflector located between said SAW transducer and said group of slots.

6. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 3 further comprising forming a plurality of said groups separated by dead spaces.

7. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 6 wherein said plurality of groups is at least twelve.

8. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 4 wherein at least some of said reflectors are single strips of conductive metal.

9. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 3 further comprising forming an end reflector on said SAW identification tags.

Claims 10-31 (Canceled)